point, and the road from Kaiparamba to Edakkolathur stops at a different point and the distance between the two ends is about 50 feet. I also understand that there is a compound there which now belongs to a private owner who is willing to surrender the necessary portion of that property in order to construct a road there. I therefore request the Government that, without waiting for the Road Board to take up the matter, some provision may be found in order to take up the matter as an urgent measure.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Pazhayannur):* Is it not a Panchayat Road?

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Yes. This is a matter for the Panchayat Department also to consider, because these are panchayat roads, and the few feet of road required, most probably, must be completed by the Panchayat Department.

Mr. President: Is it a fact that 50 feet of road is left out?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* It will be undertaken forthwith, if it comes under the Panchayat Department.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolution No. 7

Ferry to Kumbalam Village from main land to be made free

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiyar *(Trippunittura):* Sir, the resolution standing in my name is this: *"This Council recommends to the Government that in view of the peculiarly insular position of the Kumbalam Desam in Maradu Village, at least one ferry connecting it with the main land be made free".*

I may, at the outset say, that there is a very slight mistake in the wording of the resolution. It is not 'Maradu Village'. It is Kumbalam Village. I do not know how many hon'ble members here know about this small but neglected island of Kumbalam on the southern side of Ernakulam. This is a very small island about 4 miles in length and about 3 miles in width. The situation of this small island is such that the people inhabiting that island will have to cross either the backwaters or a small river or canal in order to get out of that Desam. The persons residing there are not able to carry on any business at all except by crossing over to one of these places. There is not even a market in that place so that the people who are engaged in such small cottage industries like coir making are not given the facility to exchange those commodities for a decent price and purchase their absolute necessities. There is a small

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rural dispensary there and in order to avail themselves of the benefits conferred by that rural dispensary, people living in small islands all around like Nettur and Panangad have to cross to Kumbalam. There is not a Registry Office there. The Registry Office is at Ernakulam and anyone who wants to cross over to Ernakulam has, I think, to pay 6 pies. I do not know whether it is 4 pies or 6 pies. I am subject to correction, but he will have to pay that amount and then come to the Registry Office. There is not a Panchayat Office there. The Panchayat Office is situated at Nettur and there is a ferry to Nettur. So the hon'ble members will see that for every small thing that the villager needs he will have to cross over, either to Nettur Panangad, Cochin or Ernakulam. So, what I want to request the Government by this resolution is that they may be pleased at least to make one ferry that will lead to this small Desam of Kumbalam free. I understand that the Government have granted a similar request of the people of Kadamakudi, which is also situated almost in a similar position. Here there is no Registry Office, Panchayat Office or a High School, and similarly in Kumbalam Desam also, no such facilities do exist now. I would therefore request the Government to make one ferry at least that will lead to Kumbalam free. There are at present 5 or 6 ferries. I do not remember the exact number. I think there are ferries to Edacochi, Thevara, Panangad, Nettur, and Cheppanam. The people mostly poor have to incur a lot of expenditure. A poor man who is engaged in small industries like the coir industry and who will have to cross over to any of these places has to pay 4 pies for the ferry every day. The net gain he may get is one anna or ½ anna. Out of that he has to spend at least 4 pies for getting his articles sold somewhereelse because there is not even a market in this island. I would therefore request the Government to make at least one ferry free so that the people may save at least this small amount which they have to spend for carrying on their daily business.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I second it.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar):* I regret very much that I have to oppose this resolution. The resolution as it stands applies only to Kumbalam but the acceptance of this resolution means an all round application of the principle to every other ferry in this taluk. The only ground upon which the resolution was supported was the peculiar insluar position of Kumbalam. That insular position Kumbalam shares with many other parts, Mulavukad, Panambukad, Chittur, Kadamakudi and so on, *i. e.*, throughout this taluk and the neighbouring taluk of Mukundapuram, the whole of those places to which this backwater extends. These ferries are classified into 4 kinds, first class 6 pies, second class 4 pies,

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3rd class 2 pies and the 4th class 1 pie. The classification is based upon the distance that has to be travelled by the ferry man. In this particular area there are 5 ferries. The Kumbalam-Edacochi ferry belongs to the first class, and the charge is 6 pies. It brings in a revenue of Rs. 400 and odd. The next ferry is the one to which the hon'ble member particularly pointed out, the ferry between Thevara, the southern most point of Ernakulam and the land opposite, Kumbalam. There the charge is 4 pies and it has brought in a revenue of Rs. 450 in 1114. In all the other 3 ferries the charge is 1 pie. My submission is that these rates do not apply particularly to Kumbalam. These are rates applicable to other ferries also. In Ernakulam and Bolghatty the rates are the same. I submit if you make one ferry free, it will certainly be an authority to make all other ferries free throughout this taluk. Unless the Government commit themselves to a policy of making these ferries free there is no way of accepting this suggestion. That is the great difficulty before us. There was a petition from the inhabitants of Kumbalam dated 20th March 1939 an extract of which had been forwarded to me for remarks. They contended that in at least one ferry the rates may be reduced to half. The hon'ble member has gone a step further and wants to make one ferry free. The difficulty of making ferries free is very great, because it will certainly be followed by requests from all the other people in the taluk.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Are there no free ferries in the State?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar):* So far as I know there is none, except the one I mentioned, *i. e.*, Kadamakudi and a few more. There is one more ferry at Kumbalam which is an interstatal ferry and the rate is fixed in consultation with the Travancore Government.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Why was that one ferry made free?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar):* It was mainly for the purpose of school children. You have to incur a double loss of the annual income to the Government by making a ferry free and then we will have to incur an additional expenditure because we will have to conduct the ferry. I do not dispute that there are a number of people crossing the ferry. The ferries have been auctioned this year and in any case it will be very difficult for me to accept this resolution because it will be followed by similar requests from other people.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar *(Trippunittura):* At least I for one am not satisfied with the reply given by the Diwan

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Peishkar for not accepting this small request. I did not say that the Thevara-Ernakulam ferry should be made free. That may fetch Government Rs. 400 or more. But there are ferries from which the Government will get only a pie per head. What harm is there for the Government to make that ferry which lies between Kumbalam and Nettur free?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar):* It fetches Rs. 145.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar *(Tripunittura):* Without making at least that much of sacrifice the Government will not be able to meet this demand. I also bring to the notice of this House one more fact which would be a speccial reason for the Government to grant this request. There are at present 5 ferries in this small Island about 4 miles long and 3 miles wide. That very reason is enough to convice the Government that at least one ferry which fetches only a pie per head ought to be made free. They have made a similar grant to Kadamakudi. Here also there is no High School no Registry Office, no Panchayat Office and not even a market. I do not think the reply given by the hon'ble member is convincing. I press this resolution for the unanimous acceptance of this House.

The resolution was put and lost.

Resolution No. 8

A Central Public Library for the State

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Sir, the resolution standing in my name reads thus. *"This Council recommends to the Government that an up-to-date Central Public Library for the whole State may be started."*

Our State is the first in point of education and we are all proud of that. But I regret to inform the House that our State has not got a single up-to-date library. There are about 20 or 28 libraries, rural and public, in the State and I have had occasion to visit several of these and in none of these libraries there are up-to-date books on History, Literature, Science, Politics etc. In this respect, I admire Travancore very much. The Public Library in Trivandrum is a model institution. I would request our Government also to start a library on that model. Whatever is go do in Travancore we can follow. Now, as it stands, if you want to get a book on Politics, for example, Simon Commission Report, which is a well-known book, you cannot get it. Now I am a member of the Legislative Council and I can get it from the Council Library. When I cease to be a member, wherefrom can I get it? Then there is a report of

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